

Accounting Terminology

A

Abatement. A complete or partial cancellation of an expenditure or revenue.

Abatement of expenditures. Cancellation of part or all of a charge previously made, usually because of refunds, rebates, resale of materials originally purchased by the local educational agency (LEA), or collections for loss or damage to the LEA's property. An abatement of expenditure applies to current expenditures and capital outlay expenditures from all funds.

Abatement of revenue. The cancellation of all or some part of any specific revenue previously recorded.

Account group. A self-balancing set of accounts that list government's fixed assets and long-term debt and that are not otherwise a part of governmental funds.

Accounting period. A period of time for which records are maintained and at the end of which financial statements are prepared covering the period.

Account numbers or letters. Numbers and/or letters that are assigned to the ordinary titles of accounts for classification of accounts and ease of reference.

Accounts payable. Amounts due and owed to private persons, business firms, governmental units, or others for goods received and/or services rendered prior to the end of the fiscal year. Includes amounts billed but not paid. Does not include amounts due to other funds of the same LEA.

Accounts receivable. Amounts due and owed from private persons, business firms, governmental units, or others for goods received and/or services rendered prior to the end of the fiscal year. Includes amounts billed but not received. Does not include amounts due from other funds of the same LEA.

Accrual basis. That method of accounting in which revenue is recorded when earned, even though it has not yet been collected, and in which expenses are recorded when the liabilities are incurred, even if they have not been paid yet.

Accrued expenditures. Expenditures incurred during the current accounting period that are not paid until a subsequent accounting period.

Accrued revenue. Revenue earned during the current accounting period that is not collected until a subsequent accounting period.

Actuarial basis. A basis used in computing the amount of contributions to be made periodically to a fund so that the total contributions plus the compounded earnings

thereon will equal the required payments to be made out of the fund. The factors taken into account in arriving at the amount include the length of time over which each collection or payment is to be made and the rate of return compounded on such amounts over its life.

Accumulated depreciation. A contra-asset account used to report the accumulation of depreciation. (See *depreciation*.)

Ad valorem tax. A tax based on a percentage of the value of goods or services.

Agency fund. A fund consisting of resources received and held by an LEA as an agent for others.

Allocation. Division or distribution in accordance with a predetermined plan.

Allowable costs. Costs that meet the specific criteria of a granting agency.

Allowance. A provision for valuing an asset at net, such as an allowance for bad debts. The allowance for bad debts would be deducted from accounts receivable to reflect the receivables that are likely to be collectable.

Apportionment. Allocation of state or federal aid, district taxes, or other moneys among LEAs or other governmental units.

Apportionment notice. A document notifying LEAs when moneys were deposited with the county treasurer.

Appraisal. An estimate of property value made by the use of systematic procedures based on physical inspection and inventory, engineering studies, and other economic factors.

Appropriation. An authorization, granted by the governing board, to make expenditures and to incur obligations for special purposes. An appropriation is usually limited in purpose, amount, and the time period during which it may be expended.

Appropriation ledger. A subsidiary ledger containing an account for each appropriation. Each account usually shows the amount originally appropriated in the budget, budget increases or decreases during the year, expenditures, encumbrances, unencumbered balances, and other related information.

Arbitrage. The profit earned (i.e., interest earnings in excess of interest costs) from the investments of the proceeds of lower-interest tax-exempt securities in higher yielding taxable securities.

Assessed valuation. Value placed on personal and real property by a governmental unit for purposes of taxation.

Assets. Resources that are held or owned by an LEA and that have monetary value.

Audit. An examination of documents, records, and accounts for the purpose of (1) determining the propriety of transactions; (2) ascertaining whether all transactions are recorded properly; and (3) determining whether statements that are drawn from

accounts reflect an accurate picture of financial operations and financial status for a given period of time.

Audit finding. A weakness in internal controls or an instance of noncompliance with applicable laws and regulations that is presented in the audit report.

Audit program. A detailed outline of work to be done and the procedures to be followed during an audit.

Available cash. Cash that is on hand or on deposit in a given fund and that is unencumbered and can be used for meeting current obligations.

Average daily attendance (ADA). Total approved days of attendance in the LEA divided by the number of days the schools in the LEA are in session for at least the required minimum day. (Refer to *Education Code* Section 46300 and *California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Education*, sections 400–424.)

B

Balance sheet. A statement that shows the assets, liabilities, and fund balance or fund deficit of an entity at a specific date and that is properly classified to exhibit the financial condition of the entity as of that specific date.

Basis of accounting. The time at which revenues, expenditures, transfers, and related liabilities and assets are recognized in the accounts and are reported in the financial statements.

Book value. The cost or stated costs of assets less accumulated depreciation as shown by the books of accounts.

Bond. A certificate containing a written promise to pay a specified sum of money, called the face value, at a fixed time in the future, called the date of maturity, and specifying interest at a fixed rate, usually payable periodically.

Bond discount. The excess of the face value of a bond over the price for which it is acquired or sold. (The price does not include accrued interest at the date of acquisition or sale.)

Bond premium. The excess of the price at which a bond is acquired or sold over its face value. (The price does not include accrued interest at the date of acquisition or sale.)

Bonded debt. That portion of indebtedness represented by outstanding bonds.

Bonded debt service. Expenditures for interest and redemption of bonds.

Bonds authorized and unissued. Legally authorized bonds that have not been sold and that may be sold without further authorization.

Budget. A plan of financial operation consisting of an estimate of proposed revenue and expenditures for a given period and purpose. The term usually indicates a financial plan for a single fiscal year.

Budget revision. Net increases and decreases to the budget. They may include increases due to new grant funds and decreases due to the need to reduce appropriations to keep spending within available revenues.

Budget transfer. Changes among budgeted items. They do not increase or decrease the total budget.

Budgetary accounts. Those accounts that make it possible for a budgetary-type fund (governmental fund) to show how (1) estimated revenue and revenue realized to date compare; and (2) expenditures and encumbrances compare with appropriations during the fiscal period. The budgetary accounts are estimated revenue, appropriations, and encumbrances.

Budgetary control. The management of financial transactions in accord with an approved plan of estimated revenue and expenditures.

Budgeting. The process of allocating the available resources of an organization among potential activities to achieve the objectives of the organization; planning for the use of resources.

C

Capital assets. See *fixed assets*.

Capital lease. A lease agreement that meets one or more of the following criteria is classified as a capital lease:

- Ownership is transferred to the lessee at the end of the lease term.
- The agreement contains a “bargain purchase” option.
- The lease agreement is 75 percent or more of the estimated useful life of the property.
- The present value of the minimum lease payment is 90 percent or more of the fair market value of the property.

Capital outlay. Amounts paid for fixed assets or additions to fixed assets, including land or existing buildings, the improvements of grounds, construction of buildings, additions to buildings, remodeling of buildings, or initial and additional equipment.

Capital projects funds. Funds established to account for financial resources that are to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities.

Cash. Currency, checks, postal and express money orders, and bankers’ drafts on hand or on deposit with an official or agent designated as custodian of cash and bank deposits. Any restriction or limitation as to the availability of cash should be indicated.

Cash advance. Cash apportioned in advance of the usual apportionment period.

Cash basis. Method of accounting in which revenue and expenditures are recorded only when cash is actually received or disbursed. The cash basis is not acceptable for use in LEAs.

Cash collections awaiting deposit. Receipts on hand or moneys in a bank clearing account awaiting deposit in the county treasury.

Cash discount. An allowance made on a purchase if payment is made within a stated period. (This term is not to be confused with *trade discount*.)

Cash in bank. Balances in separate bank accounts, such as student body accounts, school farm accounts, and cafeteria accounts.

Cash in county treasury. Cash balances on deposit in the county treasury for the various funds of the LEA.

Categorical aid. Funds from state or federal sources that are in addition to the general purpose funding to serve a specific pupil population or to provide specific services and activities. These funds have fiscal and program compliance requirements of varying degree.

Certificates of participation (COPs). A financing technique that provides long-term financing through a lease (with an option to purchase or a conditional sale agreement).

Chart of accounts. A systematically arranged list of accounts that are applicable to a specific LEA. All account names and numbers, if any, are listed in numerical order.

Check. A bill of exchange drawn on a bank and payable on demand; a written order on a bank to pay on demand a specific sum of money to a named person, to his or her order, or to bearer out of money on deposit to the credit of the maker. A check differs from a warrant in that a warrant is not necessarily payable on demand and may not be negotiable; a check differs from a voucher in that a voucher is not an order to pay. A voucher-check combines the distinguishing characteristics of a voucher and a check; it shows the propriety of a payment and is an order to pay.

Classification. The naming or identification of an item or a category, such as the designation of the particular account into which a receipt or an expenditure is to be recorded or the separation of data into acceptable groupings so that financial facts can be stated more clearly.

Classroom units (CU). The approximate area usually occupied by a classroom, varying from 800 to 1,100 square feet but generally about 960 square feet.

Clearing accounts. Accounts used to accumulate total receipts or expenditures for later distribution among the accounts to which such receipts or expenditures are properly allocable.

Closing entries. Entries recorded at the end of each fiscal period to transfer the balances in the revenue and expenditure (or expense) accounts to the permanent equity accounts (fund balance or retained earnings) of an accounting entity.

Code. (1) A distinguishing reference number or symbol; (2) a statement of the laws of a specific field; e.g., *Education Code*, *Penal Code*, *Civil Code*, and *Labor Code*.

Compensated absences. Absences for which compensation is paid; e.g., vacation and sick leave.

Component unit. An organization that is legally separate and for which the elected officials of the primary government are financially accountable or for which the nature and significance of its relationship with a primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

Contingent liabilities. Items that may become liabilities as a result of conditions undetermined at a given date; e.g., guarantees, pending lawsuits, judgments and appeals, and unsettled disputed claims.

Contra account. An account to record offsetting transactions; e.g., abatements.

Contract. An agreement between two or more people or entities to do something. Contracts are usually in writing and are enforceable by law.

Contracted services. Expenditures for services rendered under contract by personnel who are not on the payroll of the LEA, including all related expenditures covered by the contract.

Control account. A summary account, usually maintained in the General Ledger, in which is entered the aggregate of the debit and the credit postings to a number of identical, similar, or related accounts called subsidiary accounts. Its balance equals the sum of the balances of the detail accounts.

Cost. The amount of money or its equivalent value paid or agreed to be paid for property or services. Costs may be incurred even before money is paid; that is, as soon as a liability is assumed. Ultimately, however, money or its equivalent must be given in exchange. The cost of some property or service may in turn become part of the cost of another property or service. For example, the cost of materials will be reflected in the cost of articles made from such materials.

County School Service Fund (CSSF). A fund established to control the financial operations of the offices of county superintendents of schools.

Credit. The right side of a double-entry posting. Credits will reduce assets and expenditures and increase liabilities, revenue, and fund balance.

Current assets. Assets that are available or can be made readily available to meet the cost of operations or to pay current liabilities.

Current expense of education. The current General Fund operating expenditures of an LEA for kindergarten and grades one through twelve, *excluding* expenditures for food services, community services, nonagency activities, fringe benefits for retired persons, acquisition and construction of facilities, and Objects 6000 and 7000.

Current liabilities. Amounts due and payable for goods and services received prior to the end of the fiscal year. Current liabilities should be paid within a relatively short period of time, usually within a year.

Current loans. A loan payable in the same fiscal year in which the money was borrowed.

D

Debit. The left side of a double-entry posting. A debit will increase assets and expenditures and reduce liabilities, revenue, and fund balance.

Debt limit. The maximum amount of legally permitted debt.

Debt service. Expenditures for the retirement of debt and for interest on debt.

Debt service funds. Funds established to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term debt principal and interest.

Deferred revenue. Revenue received in a given period, but unearned, which is set up as a liability to be included as revenue in subsequent periods.

Deficit. The amount by which a sum of money falls short of a required amount; e.g., apportionment deficits or budget deficits.

Deficit financing. The amount to be provided when estimated expenditures exceed the estimated revenues.

Deficit fund balance. The excess of liabilities of a fund over its assets.

Deficit spending. The excess of actual expenditures over actual revenues (also referred to as an operating deficit).

Delinquent taxes. Taxes remaining unpaid after the close of the year in which levied. (See also *Prior years' taxes*, in most cases the preferred term.)

Depreciation. Estimated loss in value or service life of fixed assets because of wear and tear through use, elapse of time, inadequacy, or obsolescence.

Designation for economic uncertainties. The portion of the fund balance that has been designated (set aside) by the governing board to provide for emergencies or economic events, such as revenue shortfalls, that could not be anticipated.

Direct expenses or costs. Expenses that can be separately identified and charged as parts of the cost of a product, service, or department.

Direct support charges. Charges for a support program and services that directly benefit other programs.

Disbursements. Payments by currency, check, or warrant. (The term is not synonymous with *expenditures*.)

Double entry. A system of bookkeeping that requires an amount credited for every corresponding amount debited. Thus, the double-entry ledger maintains equality of debits and credits.

E

Earned interest revenue. A sum of money received or due to be received for the use of money loaned or invested.

EDGAR (Education Department General Administrative Regulations). The regulations of the U.S. Department of Education incorporating certain circulars from the Office of Management and Budget. *EDGAR* is found in *The Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34*, parts 74, 75, 76, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86. It is defined in *The Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34*, part 77.1.

Equity accounts. These accounts represent the difference between assets and liabilities of the fund.

Employee benefits. Amounts paid by the LEA on behalf of employees; these amounts are not included in the gross salary, but are over and above. They are fringe benefit payments; and while not paid directly to employees, they are nevertheless part of the cost of salaries and benefits. Examples are (1) group health or life insurance payments; (2) contributions to employee retirement; (3) OASDI (Social Security) taxes; (4) Workers' Compensation payments; and (5) payments made to personnel on sabbatical leave.

Encroachment. The use of unrestricted moneys to support restricted program expenditures.

Encumbrances. Obligations in the form of purchase orders, contracts, salaries, and other commitments chargeable to an appropriation for which a part of the appropriation is reserved.

Enterprise funds. Funds used to account for those ongoing activities of the LEA that because of their income-producing character are similar to those found in the private sector.

Entitlement. An apportionment that is based on specific qualifications or formula defined in statute. (This term should not be used as a basis for determining how to account for unspent balances of categorical aid.)

Estimated revenues. For revenue accounts kept on the accrual basis, this term designates the amount of revenue estimated to accrue during a given period regardless of whether it is all to be collected during the period.

Expenditures. The costs of goods delivered or services rendered, whether paid or unpaid, including expenses, provision for debt retirement not reported as a liability of the fund from which retired, and capital outlay.

Expendable trust fund. A trust fund in which principal and earnings may be expended.

Expenses. Charges incurred, whether paid or unpaid, for operation, maintenance, interest, and other charges that are presumed to benefit the current fiscal period. Expense accounts are used in certain trust funds and in proprietary-type funds.

F

Face value. As applied to securities, the amount stated in the security document.

Fair value of investments. The amount at which a financial instrument could be exchanged in a current transaction between willing parties other than in a forced or liquidation sale.

Fees. Amounts collected from or paid to individuals or groups for services or for use of a school or other facility.

Fidelity bond. A form of insurance that provides for the indemnification of the LEA or other employer for losses arising from the theft or dishonesty of employees.

Fiscal year. A period of one year, the beginning and the ending dates of which are fixed by statute. For LEAs the period beginning July 1 and ending on June 30.

Fixed assets. Assets of a permanent character having continuing value; e.g., land, buildings, machinery, furniture, and equipment, with a cost over the capitalization threshold set by the LEA.

Full-time equivalent (FTE). The ratio of time expended in a part-time position to that of a full-time position. The ratio is derived by dividing the amount of time of employment required in the part-time position by the amount of employed time required in a corresponding full-time position.

Function. An act, service, or group of services proper to a person, thing, or institution and aimed at accomplishing a certain end. Under SACS, *function* refers to those activities or services performed to accomplish a goal.

Fund. A fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts recording cash and other financial resources, together with all related liabilities and residual equities or balances, and changes therein, that are segregated for the purpose of carrying on specific activities or attaining certain objectives in accord with special regulations, restrictions, or limitations.

Fund balance. The difference between assets and liabilities. The fund equity of governmental and trust funds.

G

General fixed assets account group. A self-balancing group of accounts set up to account for the general fixed assets of an LEA.

General Fund. The fund used to finance the ordinary operations of the LEA. It is available for any legally authorized purpose.

General journal. A book of original entry for all entries of financial transactions that are not recorded in a special journal, such as a cash receipts journal, a voucher register, or a cash disbursements journal.

General ledger. A book, file, or other device that contains the accounts needed to reflect, in summary and in detail, the financial position, the results of financial operations, and the changes in equities of a fund or an account group used by an LEA.

General long-term debt. Long-term debt that is legally payable from general revenue and backed by the full faith and credit of an LEA.

General group of long-term debt accounts. The account group in which all unmatured general long-term liabilities of an LEA are recorded. It does not include long-term liabilities of proprietary funds and nonexpendable trust funds.

Generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Uniform minimum standards of, and guidelines to, financial accounting and reporting. They govern the form and content of the basic financial statements of an entity. These principles encompass the conventions, rules, and procedures necessary to define accepted accounting practices and procedures. Generally accepted accounting principles provide a standard by which to measure financial presentations. The primary authoritative source on the application of these principles to state and local governments is the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

Generally accepted auditing standards (GAAS). Measures of the quality of the performance of auditing procedures and the objectives to be attained through their use. The standards are concerned with the auditor's professional qualities and with the judgment exercised in the performance of an audit. Generally accepted auditing standards are established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).

Generally accepted governmental auditing standards (GAGAS). Generally accepted auditing standards for government are established by the U.S. Government Accounting Office in *Standards and Procedures for Audits of Governmental Organizations, Programs, Activities, and Functions*.

Gift. Anything of value received from any source for which no repayment or service to the contributor is expected.

Goal. Under SACS a *goal* defines an objective or a set of objectives for the LEA. It is used to account for the cost of instruction and other services by the instructional goals and objectives of an LEA.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). The organization established to issue standards of financial accounting and reporting with respect to activities and transactions of state and local governmental entities. It is the successor organization to the National Council on Governmental Accounting (NCGA).

Grade level. Assigned classification of students according to age and school progress; e.g., kindergarten or first grade.

Grant. A contribution, either in money or material goods, made by one governmental entity to another. Grants may be for specific or general purposes. (This term should

not be used as a basis for determining how to account for unspent balances of categorical aid).

Grants-in-aid. See *Grant*.

H

Holding accounts. Suspense accounts that are used temporarily to accumulate costs that will ultimately be charged to other user programs.

I

Income. A term used in accounting for a proprietary fund type to represent the excess of revenues earned over the expenses incurred in carrying on the fund's operations. The term *income* should not be used in lieu of *revenue* in governmental-type funds.

Indirect cost. Elements of cost necessary in the operation of the LEA or in the performance of a service that are of such nature that the amount applicable to each accounting unit cannot be determined readily and accurately or for which the cost of such determination exceeds the benefit of the determination. It consists of those business and administrative costs that benefit the entire LEA (e.g., accounting, budgeting, personnel, purchasing).

Indirect cost rate (ICR). A method for claiming reimbursement of indirect costs from federal and state categorical funds. It is the ratio (expressed as a percentage) of the indirect costs to direct base costs.

Indirect support charges. Charges for routine services not performed as a special service for a particular program but allocated to user programs.

In lieu of taxes. Revenue to replace the loss of tax revenue resulting from property that is exempted from taxation.

Interest. A fee charged to a borrower for the use of money.

Interfund accounts. Accounts in which transactions between funds are reflected.

Interfund transfers. Money that is taken from one fund under the control of the governing board and added to another fund under the board's control. Interfund transfers are not revenues or expenditures of the LEA. See *Operating transfers* or *Residual equity transfers*.

Interim borrowing. (1) Short-term loans to be repaid from general revenues during the course of a fiscal year. (2) Short-term loans in anticipation of tax collections or bond insurance.

Interim reports. Reports prepared as of a date or a period during the fiscal year. They include budgetary estimates, financial transactions during current year-to-date, and end-of-year projections.

Internal audit. An appraisal activity within an LEA that (1) determines the adequacy of the system of internal control; (2) verifies and safeguards assets; (3) determines the reliability of the accounting and reporting system; (4) ascertains compliance with existing policies and procedures; and (5) appraises the performance of activities and work programs.

Internal control. A plan of organization under which employees' duties are so arranged and records and procedures so designated as to provide a system of self-checking, thereby enhancing accounting control over assets, liabilities, revenue, and expenditures. Under such a system the employees' work is subdivided so that no one employee performs a complete cycle of operation; such procedures call for proper authorization by designated officials.

Internal service funds. Funds created to render services on a cost reimbursement basis to other organizational units of the LEA. Such funds are generally intended to be self-supporting.

Interfund transfers. Interfund transactions other than loans, quasi-external transactions, and reimbursement.

Inventory. A detailed list showing the quantities and a description of the property on hand at a given time. It may also include units of measure, unit prices, and values.

Investments. Usually, securities and real estate held for the purpose of generating revenues, such as interest, dividends, or rental payments.

Invoice. An itemized statement of charges for merchandise sold or services rendered to the purchaser.

J

Job account. An account established to record the accumulation of costs of a specific piece of work; work orders showing charges for material and labor used.

Journal. Any accounting record in which the financial transactions of an LEA are formally recorded for the first time; e.g., the cash receipts book, check register, and general journal.

Journal voucher. A form provided for the recording of certain transactions or information in place of, or supplementary to, the journal or registers.

Judgments. Amounts due to be paid or collected by the LEA as the result of court decisions.

L

LEA. See *Local educational agency*.

Lease-purchase agreements. Contractual agreements which are termed “leases,” but which in substance amount to purchase contracts.

Levy. The imposition of taxes or special assessments for the support of governmental activities; also, the total amount of taxes, special assessments, or service charges imposed by a governmental unit.

Liabilities. Legal obligations (with the exception of encumbrances) that are unpaid.

Line-item budgeting. A budget system emphasizing a “balanced budget” through comparison of estimated revenues with projected expenditures. Budgetary divisions are listed by organizational units, such as departments or activities, and expenditures are divided into major categories of personal services, contracted services and supplies, and capital outlay. For budgetary control, further breakdown of expenditures are made through detailed object accounts based on the wide range of services, supplies and equipment.

Local educational agency (LEA). Typically, a local school district, county office of education, or joint powers agreement entity engaged in providing educational services.

Long-term debt. Debt that matures more than one year after the date of issuance.

M

Management’s discussion and analysis (MD & A). The narrative introducing the financial statements and providing an analytical overview of the LEA’s financial performance for the year. It should contain sufficient information for users of the financial statements to evaluate whether the financial position of the LEA has improved or deteriorated as a result of the year’s activities.

Modified accrual basis. The accrual basis of accounting adapted to the governmental fund type. Under it, revenues are recognized when they become both “measurable” and “available” to finance expenditures of the current period. Most expenditures are recognized (recorded) when the related liability is incurred.

Multiyear financial plan. A plan that presents financial estimates of programs in tabular form for a period of years. These estimates reflect the future financial impact of current decisions. The data in the plan should be organized along the lines of the program structure.

N

Net income. A proprietary fund’s excess of revenues and operating transfers in over expenses and operating transfers out.

Not-for-profit organization (NPO). An entity that meets the definition in the Financial Accounting Standards Board’s (FASB) *Statement of Financial Accounting Standards*

No.116, Accounting for Contribution Received and Contribution Made. An entity with the following characteristics that separates it from a business enterprise:

- It receives contributions of significant amounts of resources from providers who do not expect a commensurate or proportionate pecuniary return.
- Its operating purposes are other than to provide goods or services at a profit.
- Unlike business enterprises, it does not have an interest in ownership.

O

Object. As used in an expenditure classification, *object* applies to the article purchased or to the service obtained.

Obligations. Amounts that the LEA may be legally required to meet from its resources. They include not only actual liabilities but also unliquidated encumbrances.

Operating transfers. All interfund transfers other than residual equity transfers.

Order (for payment). A written demand by the governing board of an LEA requiring the county superintendent of schools to draw his or her requisition on the county auditor for the payment of a claim against the LEA.

Other financing sources. Governmental fund general long-term debt proceeds, operating transfers in, and material proceeds of fixed asset dispositions. Such amounts are classified separately from revenues.

Other financing uses. Governmental funds' operating transfers out. Such amounts are classified separately from expenditures.

Overdraft. The amount by which checks, drafts, or other demands for payment on the treasury or on a bank account exceed the amount of the balance on which they are drawn; or the amount by which encumbrances and expenditures exceed the appropriation to which they are chargeable.

Overhead. See *Indirect cost*.

P

PERS. Public Employees' Retirement System. Unless exempted by state law, classified employees, their district, and the state contribute to this retirement fund.

Payroll register. A document accompanying one or more orders on a fund of an LEA for the payment of salaries or wages to employees; contains the names of such employees and provides information substantiating such orders.

Payroll warrant. A document used as an order or a requisition on a fund of an LEA for the purpose of paying salaries or wages.

Perpetual inventory. A system whereby the inventory of units of property at any date may be obtained directly from the records without resorting to an actual physical count. A record is provided for each item or group of items to be inventoried and is

divided to provide a running record of goods ordered, received, and withdrawn and the balance on hand in units and cost.

Personal property. All property except real property. (See *Real property*.)

Petty cash. A sum of money set aside for the purpose of making change or immediate payments of small amounts. (See also *Revolving cash fund*.)

Physical inventory. The annual physical count of an LEA's inventory. This count is often taken at the end of the year and observed by the LEA's auditors. Periodically, physical inventories are conducted to test the accuracy of the *perpetual inventory* records.

Posting. The act of transferring to an account in a ledger the data, either detailed or summarized, contained in a book of original entry.

Prepaid expenses. Expenditures for which payment has been made but for which benefits have not been realized as of a certain date; e.g., prepaid rent, prepaid interest, and premiums on unexpired insurance.

Prior years' taxes. Taxes collected within the current fiscal year for levies in previous fiscal years.

Program. A group of related activities that operate together to accomplish specific purposes or objectives.

Program cost accounting. A method to identify program costs in a standard manner. Under SACS the goal field provides the framework for program cost accounting.

Program structure. The hierarchical arrangement of programs that represents the interrelationship of activities to goals and objectives. The program structure contains categories of activities with common outputs and objectives. Programs may cut across existing departments and agencies.

Project year. A field in SACS that is used to distinguish the activities of the same grant with different project years within the fiscal year. In most cases the grant is a federal one; however, in some instances, state grants have different years.

Prorating. The allocating of expenditures or revenue from a single source to two or more accounts to show the correct distribution of charges or revenue.

Purchase order. A document issued to a vendor that authorizes the delivery of specified merchandise or the performance of certain services and the making of a charge for them.

R

Real property. Property consisting of land, buildings, minerals, timber, landscaping, and all improvements thereto.

Rebate. See *Abatement* or *Refund*.

Receipts. Cash received.

Reclassification. Redesignation of the current year's revenue or expenditure items previously posted to one account and later determined to be more properly charged to a different account.

Refund. An amount paid back or credit allowed because of an overcollection.

Registered warrant. A warrant that is registered by the county treasurer for future payment because of a present lack of funds and that is to be paid with interest in the order of its registration.

Registers. A listing of transactions of like kind that may be totaled and summarized for convenience in posting; e.g., payroll registers, warrant registers, and attendance registers.

Reimbursement. Cash or other assets received as a repayment of the cost of work or services performed; or repayment of expenditures made for or on behalf of another governmental unit, fund, or department.

Requisition. A document submitted initiating a purchase order to secure specified articles, services, or issuance of materials from stores or a warehouse.

Reserve. An account used to earmark a portion of a (1) fund balance to indicate that it is not available for expenditure (such as the reserve for inventories); and (2) fund equity as legally segregated for a specific future use (such as the reserve for a restricted program balance).

Reserve for economic uncertainties. See *Designation for economic uncertainties*.

Reserve for encumbrances. An account used to segregate a portion of a fund balance for outstanding encumbrances.

Residual equity transfers. Nonrecurring or nonroutine transfers of equity between funds of the LEA; e.g., transfers of residual balances of discontinued funds to the General Fund or contribution of internal service fund capital by the General Fund.

Resource. A field in SACS that is used to classify revenues and resulting expenditures, in accord with restrictions or special reporting requirements placed on either aspects of LEA financial activities by law or regulation. Further, because such revenues frequently are not fully expended within a fiscal year, and related liabilities are not completely liquidated, the resource code is also to reflect restrictions and special reporting obligations on balance sheet accounts.

Restricted funds. Money whose use is restricted by legal requirement or by the donor.

Revenues. The increases in a fund's financial resources other than from interfund transfers or debt issue proceeds. Revenues are the primary financial resource of a fund. Revenues are recognized when assets are increased without increasing liabilities or incurring an expenditure reimbursement.

Revolving cash fund. An account used primarily for emergency or small disbursements and reimbursed periodically through properly documented expenditures, which are summarized and charged to proper accounting classifications.

S

Schedules. Explanatory or supplementary statements that accompany the balance sheet or other financial statements.

Secured roll. Assessed value of real property, such as land, buildings, secured personal property, or anything permanently attached to land, as determined by each county assessor.

Securities. Bonds, notes, mortgages, or other forms of negotiable or nonnegotiable instruments.

Serial annuity bonds. Serial bonds in which the annual installments of bond principal are so arranged that the combined payments for principal and interest are approximately the same each year.

Serial bonds. Bonds whose principal is repaid in periodic installments over the life of the issue.

Shared revenue. Revenue that is levied by one governmental unit but that is shared, usually in proportion to the amount collected, with another unit of government or class of governments.

Short-term debt. Debt with a maturity of one year or less after the date of issuance. Short-term debt usually includes bond anticipation notes payable and tax revenue anticipation notes payable.

Source document. Any voucher, invoice, or other data that support an entry in the accounting records.

Special revenue funds. Funds established to account for the proceeds from specific revenue sources that by law are restricted to finance particular activities.

Standardized account code structure (SACS). A uniform, comprehensive, and minimum chart of accounts for classifying the financial activities of California LEAs.

Statements. (1) In a general sense, all of those formal written presentations that set forth financial information. (2) In technical accounting, those presentations of financial data that show the financial position and the results of financial operations of a fund, a group of accounts, or an entire LEA for a particular accounting period.

State School Fund. A special revenue fund within the State Treasury used for apportionments to school districts and county superintendents based on the revenue limit, and certain other special purpose apportionments. Apportionments are made by the State Controller and are based on certifications from the Department of Education.

Stores. Goods that are on hand in storerooms and that are subject to requisition.

STRS. State Teachers' Retirement System. State law requires certificated employees, school districts, and the state to contribute to this retirement fund.

Student body fund. An agency fund to control the receipts and the disbursements of student associations' activities; it consists only of assets and liabilities.

Subsidiary ledger. A supporting ledger consisting of a group of accounts, the total of which is in agreement with a control account; e.g., payroll ledger and appropriations ledger.

Subvention. Provision of assistance or financial support, usually from a superior governmental unit; a grant.

Supply. An item of an expendable nature that is consumed, wears out, or deteriorates in use; or one that loses its identity through fabrication or incorporation in a different or more complex unit or substance.

Surety bond. A written promise to pay damages or to indemnify against losses caused by the party or parties named in the document, through nonperformance or through defalcation; e.g., a surety bond given by a contractor or by an official who handles cash or securities.

Suspense account. An account that temporarily carries charges or credits pending the determination of the proper account or accounts.

T

Tax revenue anticipation notes (TRANs). Notes issued in anticipation of collection of taxes, usually retirable only from tax collections and frequently only from the proceeds of the tax levy whose collection they anticipate.

Tax liens. Claims by governmental units on properties for which taxes levied remain unpaid.

Tax rate. The amount of tax stated in terms of a unit of the tax base.

Tax rate limit. The maximum rate of tax that a governmental unit may levy.

Tax redemption. Proceeds from the sale of tax-delinquent property.

Tax relief subventions. Funds ordinarily paid to compensate for taxes lost because of tax relief measures.

Tax roll. The list showing the amount of taxes levied against each taxpayer or property.

Taxes. Compulsory charges levied by a governmental unit for the purpose of financing services performed for the common benefit.

Taxes, protested. Tax money paid under protest and held by the county auditor pending settlement of the protest.

Taxes receivable. An asset account representing the uncollected portion of taxes levied.

Term bonds. Bonds whose entire principal matures on one date.

Trade discount. A reduction of the list price, usually expressed as a percentage and related to the volume of business transacted. (The term is not to be confused with *Cash discount*.)

Transfer. Interdistrict or interfund payments or receipts not chargeable to expenditures or credited to revenue. Also see *Budget transfer*.

Trial balance. A list of the balances of the accounts in a ledger kept by double entry, with the debit and credit balances shown in separate columns. If the totals of the debit and credit columns are equal or if their net balances agree with a control account, the ledgers from which the figures are taken are said to be “in balance.”

Trust fund. A fund used to account for assets held by a government in a trustee capacity for individuals, private organizations, other governments, and/or other funds.

Tuition. An amount charged for educational services provided to a student.

U

Unaudited actuals. An annual statement reporting the financial activities of the LEA in which the data are not yet audited.

Unencumbered balance. That portion of an appropriation or allotment not yet expended or obligated.

Unit cost. The total expenditure for a product, program, or service divided by the total quantity obtained or some other quantitative measure; e.g., the total expenditure for desks divided by the number of desks equals the cost per desk.

Unrealized revenue. Estimated revenue less revenue received to date; also, the estimated revenue for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Unsecured roll. Assessed value of personal property other than secured property.

V

Voucher. A written document which evidences the propriety of transactions and usually indicates the amounts that are to be recorded.

W

Warrant. A written order, drawn by the LEA’s governing board or its authorized officer(s) or employee(s), approved by the county superintendent of schools and allowed by the county auditor, directing the county treasurer to pay a specified amount to a designated payee.

Warrants payable. The amount of warrants issued, outstanding, and unpaid.

Withholding. The process of deducting from a salary or wage payment an amount, specified by law or regulation, representing the individual's estimated federal or state income tax that the employer must pay to the taxing authority.

Work in process. The value of partially completed products manufactured or processed, such as a partially completed printing job.

Work order. A written authorization for the performance of a particular job containing a description of the nature and location of the job and specifications for the work that is to be performed. Such authorizations are usually assigned job numbers, and provision is made for accumulating and reporting labor, material, and other costs.

Work station. Computer, personal computers, or work areas assigned for data processing purposes.